

Filed for intro on 03/13/95
House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SJR0106
By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to make the ad hoc joint committee to study the Public Service Commission a special joint committee to review the mission, structure, regulatory authority and rulemaking policies and procedures of the Public Service Commission.

WHEREAS, the concept of a public service commission originated in the late 1800s, as the need to regulate the powerful railroad companies became a matter of public concern; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Public Service Commission was created by Chapter 10 of the Public Acts of 1897 as an independent agency vested with broad authority to determine rates and supervise operations of railroads, public utilities and motor carriers operating within Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the structure and organization of the Public Service Commission has been a subject of continuing and serious debate; and

WHEREAS, recent findings by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee concerning the Commission's operations raise structural and operational concerns which merit review by the General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING,

That the ad hoc joint committee to study the Public Service Commission authorized by the Speakers of the Senate and House of Representatives in a letter dated January 6, 1995, is hereby designated a special joint committee to study, examine and review the mission, structure, regulatory authority and ratemaking and rulemaking policies and procedures of the Public Service Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be composed of the five (5) members of the Senate and five (5) members of the House of Representatives appointed by the respective speakers to serve on the present ad hoc joint committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be authorized to employ independent legal counsel in addition to the legal staff services provided by the Office of Legal Services or to seek guidance from any Tennessee citizen possessing special expertise in areas of interest to the committee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be authorized to exercise all powers delegated to committees of the General Assembly by Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapters 3 and 4.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the previously appointed legislative members of the special joint committee shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and shall be paid as members of the General Assembly are paid for attending legislative meetings as provided in Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall retain its previously appointed co-chairmen and shall elect any other officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its preliminary findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports,

to the Ninety-ninth General Assembly no later than February 1, 1996. The committee shall cease to exist upon rendering its final report no later than April 20, 1996.